Plan proposals prepared by the Ministry of Education are in keeping with the target of achievement of universalisation of elementary education by 1990. It is estimated that by the end of 1984-85 out of approximately 1400 lakh children in the age-group 6-14; 1160 lakhs would be enrolled. By the end of Seventh Plan *i.e.* 1989-90, it is estimated that 1800 lakh children will have to be enrolled to achieve universalisation of elementary education. Accordingly an estimated 640 lakh additional children will have to be enrolled by 1990. It is proposed to cover 250 lakhs through formal schools and 390 lakhs through non-formal system. Since enrolment of girls is lagging behind, special emphasis is being laid on enrolment of girls for which two specific schemes, are in operation in nine educationally backward States, *viz.* Andhra Pradesh Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These schemes are (1) Centrally sponsored scheme of non-formal education centres exclusively for girls on 90:10 sharing basis; and (2) Centrally sponsored scheme of appointment of women teachers in primary schools on 80:20 sharing basis. In addition to these a scheme of incentive/awards for excellence of performance in enrolment of girls at the elementary level to all States/UTs at the Panchayat/CD Block/TD Block/ district/State levels is in operation since 1983-84.

Apart from the above States have been advised to extend the coverage of other incentive schemes being operated by them for girls and other weaker sections of society such as SC/ST.

Opening of a UGCs Branch in the South

241. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI R SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
SHRI R SAMBA SIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of 8th July, 1985 under the caption UGC branch urged in South;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Education Ministers of three Southern States have urged the Centre to open a branch of the University Grants Commission for Southern States in Hyderabad with powers to sanction adequate funds to educational institutions; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been/ is being taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recently, the Education Minister of Andhra Pradesh had made such a suggestion.

(c) The Government have at present no proposal to establish Regional Offices of the University Grants Commission in any part of the country.

Invitation to Bhopal Doctors from various Medical Associations in the U. K.

242. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of both senior Government doctors and also those doing private practice in Bhopal have received invitations from various medical associations in the US to participate in seminars or meetings to discuss the Bhopal gas disaster; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Government do not have any

information about any such invitations to private doctors. In so far as Government doctors are concerned, no such invitation to aprticipate in any meeting or seminar to discuss the Bhopal Gas Tragedy was received.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Board for the Ichampally Project in Andhra Pradesh

243. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have urged the Central Government for using their good offices in convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the approval of the constitution of the Central Board for the Ichampally Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken in the matter;

(c) whether the clearance from the Central Water Commission is pending in respect of the execution of the Project; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir. The Andhra Pradesh Government had requested the Centre to use its good offices for convening of an inter-State meeting for approval of the constitution of a Control Board for the champally Project.

(b) The Central Government took up the matter with the Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to expedite the formulation of their Joint Control Board.

(c) No, Sir. The Project Report on Ichampally Project has not yet been submitted to the Central Water Commission.

(d) Does not arise.

Madras-Singapore shipping services

244. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to resume the Singapore-Madras shipping service;

(b) if so, by when the service is likely to be resumed; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are on to locate a suitable ship for operation on this route.

(c) Does not arise.

Number of vacant posts in J.N. Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry

245. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts in the faculties of JIPMER, Pondicherry as on date;

(b) whether the MCI has given any deadline to the JIPMER, in this regard;

(c) by when the Government hope to fill them up; and

(d) whether the MCI has proposed to derecognise the Institute if the posts are not filled up in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Twenty-six

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The recruitment action for filling these posts through UPSC/DPC is at different stages.

(d) No such communication has been received from the Medical Council of India.